The Member further stated that adequate funds were not sanctioned for the progress and development of the Agricultural department. He believed that, if the lands in the State were cultivated on scientific lines, and if the Government lands in the hilly tracts and by the sides of the backwaters were cultivated by the Government direct, there would be no necessity to import paddy.

He did not think that the re-settlement which would commence from 1100 M. E., would be necessary, if it be to establish the proprietory rights of the owners, as the present Assistant Tahsildars would be quite sufficient for the purpose. If it be to increase the land tax, he said that the re-settlement was undesirable, as it would be throwing an additional burden on the already oppressed ryots.

Dewan's reply.—Most of the points referred to by the Member have been already replied to. The other matters referred to by him will receive due consideration.

5. Necessity for the establishment of a State Bank.

Mr. Nainan Eippu (Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam) thanked the Government for taking steps to depute an officer to study the system of State Banks in Mysore and Baroda. He, therefore, wished only to make a few observations regarding the State Bank to be started in Travancore. Branches of the State Bank should be opened as early as possible in the important trading centres, such as Quilon, Kottayam and Alleppey, and in other places decided upon by the Government. The Government should lend money at reasonable rates of interest from the State Bank to the native banks in proportion to the capital of the latter. Government should also fix a standard rate in the matter of discount, commission, interest, &c. With a view to encourage industrial education in the country, capable and qualified young men should be employed as officers in the Bank. He also advocated that, with the establishment of the State Bank, Government funds should not be invested outside Travancore.

Sahib Bahadur N. Siddick Sait (Member, Municipal Council, Kayankulam) said that, as Government had already taken steps in the matter, he had not anything more to say than to convey his thanks to Government for the action taken.

Dewan's reply.—The State has already taken steps to depute an officer to visit Mysore and Baroda and to study the working of the State Banks there. On his return the Government will consider what further action they should take in the matter.

II. MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.

(1) Land Revenue.

6. The difficulties experienced in the matter of puduval registry and the need for postponing the passing of the Revised Puduval Rules till the necessary modifications are effected.

Mr. Mathevan Krishnan (Member, Neyyattinkara Taluk) first spoke about the Land Assignment Bill. The Bill, though strongly opposed by the non-official Members of the Legislative Council, had been accepted by the Council and referred to a Select Committee, on the understanding that the necessary modifications might be made in the Committee and subsequently in the Council. It was of the utmost importance that the defective and objectionable portions in the Bill and in the Puduval Rules should be expunged or suitably modified, and the important provisions relating to principles embodied in the Bill and a few clauses for regulating the procedure alone issued in the form of Rules. The definition given in Section 2 of the Bill appears to include, under poramboke, the tanks, canals, bunds, banks, pathways, etc., forming part of registered holdings. The same provision occurred in Section 3 of the Land Conservancy Regulation. The definition shou'd be altered so as to make it inapplicable to private tanks, canals, etc. Section 5, Clause 2, and the exception thereto enunciated an altogether new provision, namely, that a registry would not be complete until the patta or other title deed was granted. The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill

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did not sufficiently explain the necessity for such a provision which was against custom and law. The remedy open to a party who, in pursuance of orders passed by a competent authority, had deposited *tharavila* etc., but who failed to get patta was not clear. While, in practice, tax was realised even before grant of patta, legislative sanction was now sought to deprive the party of his rights to the land. That provision would serve as a potent instrument of oppression in the hands of the officers authorised to grant pattas. Stringent orders should be issued for the clearing off of all arrears in the work of granting pattas. It was also desirable to delete Clause 2 and the exception to Section 5 of the Bill. Section 6, while conferring statutory force on the Puduval Rules, prevented the aggrieved party from seeking his remedy in a court of law. Government should, on the contrary, have proclaimed the purity of their intentions by leaving it open to parties to appeal to the civil courts from all decisions of the Revenue department. No doubt, as the mover of the Bill urged, the revenue officials were as qualified and as conscientious as the judicial officers; but the chances were that revenue officials would favour the Sirkar. Besides, in a revenue court, the party did not get the same opportunity as in a civil court to represent his case and adduce evidence. As the Dewan who was the defendant in all cases against the Sirkar was the final authority in a revenue case, the aggrieved party could not be satisfied with his decision. If the party had not got a strong claim against the Sirkar, the civil courts could not help him and he had to suffer all the loss. The institution of legal proceedings in matters in which there had been gross miscarriage of justice by the decisions of the Revenue department would be useful. The right to sue in a court of law on a final decision by the Revenue department in a puduval case should be recognised and a period of one year should be granted for the exercise of that right. Another provision in Section 6 was the reduction of the period of limitation in revenue cases. The wrong recordings at the Settlement and there after of registered holdings as tharisu and poramboke were innumerable and were always being brought to light. The subordinates of the Revenue department were keen on adding to their number. The existence of several mistakes of that kind in the re-survey of the Nedumangad Taluk would support his contention. Special care should therefore be taken to prevent the wrong location of registered holdings and the treatment of parts of registered holdings as Sirkar tharisu or poramboke. It should be clearly defined in the Bill that the Section did not apply to land which was not Sirkar land. The limit of one year should also be removed. Clauses (a), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k) and (l) of Section 7 empowered Government to pass rules relating to the matters mentioned therein. The details connected with each of those points should be discussed in the Council, the views of the Members ascertained and suitable provisions in accordance with such views embodied in the Regulation itself. The rules to be issued under the other clauses of that Section should be passed only after previous publication in the Government Gazette in the draft stage and after careful consideration of the objections and suggestions from the public. The date from which the law would come into force should be specified in the Regulation.

The Member next dealt with the draft of the Revised Puduval Rules. It should be recognised that, with the increasing struggle for existence, a large number of people had resorted to puduval cultivation as an independent means of livelihood and that many more would turn to land in the future. Part IV of the Draft Rules relating to the assignment of occupied lands required that *bona fide* occupation and valuable improvements should exist to entitle a man to registry without auction. The *tharavila* to be paid would be an amount fixed with reference to the prevailing market value of neighbouring lands. *Thadivila* had to be paid at the enhanced rates fixed in the schedule and that even for trees already cut and removed. Those provisions could never help the poor and middle classes. The expression 'unoccupied lands' in the heading of Part III of the draft Rules had been translated into കടി കിടപ്പില്ലാത്ത ഭൂമികൾ. That would mean that improved lands in which the applicant did not reside would be sold in auction. That would be very hard.

Dewan.—The Rules are all right. If the translation is not exact, it will be rectified.

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Continuing, the Member said that, even in the case of unoccupied lands, if they were to be sold in auction in 10 acreblocks, it would be beyond the reach of the middle classes to secure them. The lands were sure to go into the hands of the rich. One other objection to the draft Rules was the foreign exploitation which they encouraged by means of Rules 47 and 48. Coupe sales to foreigners had already denuded the forests of all trees and a timber famine had been the result. A similar policy in the case of Government lands, by selling them in auction to foreigners, should be carefully avoided. Plots of five acres each should be granted to occupants who were *bonafide* agriculturists, on moderate *tharavila*, *thadivila* and assessment. The rapid sale of all puduval lands by auction for enhancing the revenue in the immediate present was not desirable. Foreign exploitation should not be allowed. Adequate provision should be made for registering one or two acres to really destitute persons and there should be a guarantee that the lands entered upon and improved by them would not be taken away from them. Part V which dealt with concessional grants overlooked the fact that there were many people belonging to the lower middle classes in quest of land who did not belong to the depressed classes or were not absolutely poor. It would be better to give one acre each to a greater number of people including the middle classes than grant a large area of 3 acres which they would not be able to cultivate. Provision should be made to recover the *tharavila* in easy instalments with the tax and also to grant lands on lease, with a view to help the middle classes. The assessment fixed for town lands was very high and should be reduced. Indigenous enterprise should be encouraged by the grant, without auction, of large blocks for the formation of estates. A monthly talukwar statement should be published in the Government Gazette showing the area of poramboke and puduval lands available for registry, the area applied for and registered, and the area in respect of which no applications had been received.

Dewan's reply.—All the points mentioned by the Member will be carefully considered.

7. Land Assignment Bill and the Puduval Rules.

Mr. A. Thanu Pillai B. A., B. L. (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) said that, in the notice publishing the draft Puduval Rules in the Gazette, it was stated that the effect of the existing rules had been to concentrate land in a few hands and to deprive the middle and poorer classes of the chance of getting lands for agricultural purposes. The new rules were said to be intended for the benefit of the middle and poorer classes and also to enable Government to share in the unearned increment, namely, the rise in land values which was the natural result of the development of the country. The Member said that the latter object would, no doubt, be attained by the draft Rules, but that he failed to see how they would help the industrious poor and the unfortunate landless to get land in view of the fact that the draft Rules adopted the principles of assignment in auction as against assignment by registry underlying the existing Rules. The Member then referred to Rule 12 which made it difficult for a man to get a smaller area than 10 acres according to his means, to Rule 39 which raised the minimum rates of *tharavila* for dry lands, reclamations and wet lands to Rs. 10, 25 and 50 per acre respectively, to Rule 53 which denied the concession of instalmental payment of *tharavila* to amounts less than Rs. 1,000, and to Rule 15 which required immediate payment of 25% of the auction price and the payment of the balance by the thirtieth day after the auction, failure to do which would be visited with forfeiture of deposit. He said that those Rules were not calculated to help the poor and that, in so far as the object of benefiting the middle and poorer classes was concerned, the draft Rules were certainly no improvement upon the existing Rules.

The Member then observed that the distinction maintained in the draft Rules between assignment of occupied lands and assignment of unoccupied lands was not found in the existing Rules and was objectionable. In the first place, the terms 'bonafide occupation' and 'valuable improvements' used in describing occupied lands,

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